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ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Introduction	1	4
I. THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN 1998	2 - 39	4
A. Programme overview	2 - 6	4
B. Budget, administration and management	7 - 8	5
C. Increased coordination and cooperation at the national and international levels	9 - 12	5
D. Programme approach and methodology	13 - 19	7
E. Assistance to national human rights institutions	20 - 22	8
F. Integration of gender into the technical cooperation programme	23	9
G. Integration of economic, social and cultural rights into the technical cooperation programme	24	10
H. Support to the Voluntary Fund	25 - 29	10
I. Fellowship programme activities	30 - 34	11
J. Training materials developed to support technical cooperation	35 - 39	12
II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION FIELD ACTIVITIES IN 1998	40 - 60	13
A. Projects completed and evaluated	40 - 41	13
B. Projects under implementation	42 - 48	13
1. Global projects	42	13
2. African region	43 - 44	16
3. Asian and Pacific region	45	20
4. Central and Eastern Europe/CIS countries	46	22
5. Latin American and Caribbean region	47	25
6. Arab States	48	29

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
C. Field presences and technical cooperation . . .	49 - 52	31
D. Technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation	53 - 57	32
E. New requests received	58 - 60	35

Annexes

I. 1998 Country projects focus

II. 1998 Technical cooperation budgetary allocations by region and type of project

III. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights: annual balance sheet as of 30 November 1998

IV. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights: yearly contributions as of 30 November 1998

Introduction

1. In its resolution 1998/57, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit an analytical report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on the progress and concrete achievements made as well as obstacles encountered in the implementation of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights and on the operation and administration of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

I. THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN 1998

A. Programme overview

2. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights is a comprehensive United Nations programme of support to Governments and civil society in human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

3. The technical cooperation programme is implemented under the leadership of the Office of OHCHR and aims at assisting Governments, at their request, in promoting and protecting human rights at the national and regional levels. In particular, assistance is provided for incorporating international human rights standards in national laws, policies and practices, and building national capacity and regional structures for the promotion and protection of all human rights, supporting national institutions, democracy and the rule of law. Priority consideration is given to requests for cooperation concerning activities to strengthen the national capacity or infrastructures for the promotion and protection of human rights aimed at long-term results. Programme activities are carried out within the context of national development objectives and coordinated United Nations system assistance in support of those objectives.

4. Advisory services and technical assistance may take the form of individual projects, each aimed at addressing a specific need, or large-scale and medium-term country programmes which begin with the fielding of a needs assessment mission, and are comprised of several integrated mutually reinforcing components.

5. Available assistance includes the provision of expert advisory services, training courses, workshops and seminars, fellowships, grants and the provision of human rights information and documentation. Assistance can include: human rights training and support to parliament, the judiciary, and police, military and prison officials; constitutional assistance; legal reform; the administration of justice, including the drafting of human rights standing orders; the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions; training on the human rights aspects of free and fair elections; the promotion of human rights education, including curriculum development; and support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society institutions. Expert advice and assistance is also available for specialized human rights issues, such as the formulation and implementation of comprehensive human rights national plans of action, establishment and

strengthening of national institutions; investigation into, and compensation of, victims of human rights abuses; and assisting with training and projects relating to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. Annex I provides a graph indicating the country project's focus in 1998.

6. Technical cooperation activities are financed mainly through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and partly from the regular budget for technical cooperation in the field of human rights. 1998 has been a record year in terms of an increasing number of requests for assistance received, as well as in terms of contributions to the Voluntary Fund, and the overall number of technical cooperation activities and programmes implemented by OHCHR.

B. Budget, administration and management

7. During 1998, a total of 49 technical cooperation projects were carried out of which 10 were at the global level, 8 at the regional level and 31 at the national level. In addition to developing and managing those projects, needs assessment and/or project formulation missions to the Philippines, Yemen, Niger, Cameroon, Congo, Chad, Ecuador and other countries were undertaken and substantive support to all OHCHR field presences and United Nations field operations was provided. A brief summary of activities carried out in 1998 by country, region, and at the global level, is provided in section II of this report.

8. The total expenditure for technical cooperation in 1998 (as of 31 October 1998) was estimated at US$ 7.2 million, of which US$ 1.2 million was financed through the regular budget for technical assistance of the United Nations and approximately US$ 6 million was financed through the Voluntary Fund. Total contributions and pledges to the Voluntary Fund in 1998 amounted to a record amount of US$ 10.9 million. As of 30 November 1998, total programming resources amounted to US$ 2.2 million, while US$ 19.4 million was required to finance a total of 85 ongoing and planned projects for 1999. The distribution of projects and projected expenditures by region is shown in annex II. Information on income and expenditures for 1998 under the Voluntary Fund is provided in annexe III. Contributions to the Fund in recent years are listed in annex IV. Quarterly status reports on contributions are prepared by the secretariat of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and are available upon request.

C. Increased coordination and cooperation at the national and international levels

1. Cooperation with NGOs

9. OHCHR encourages the full involvement of NGOs as crucial partners in the development and delivery of technical cooperation. NGOs both help in the delivery of assistance and benefit as recipients of it. Thus, in furthering the programme's goal of strengthening civil society, OHCHR is increasingly being called upon by Governments and others to provide assistance to national NGOs in the context of its country activities by soliciting their input, including them in seminars and training courses, and supporting appropriate projects developed by them. In these ways, the programme is able to

contribute to the development of national NGOs' capacity to assume more effectively their crucial role in a democratic society. NGOs are also involved in the programme by contributing their considerable expertise at the needs assessment, implementation, evaluation and follow-up phases.

2. Cooperation with UNDP

10. OHCHR works towards the integration of its projects into larger multi-agency action in a common United Nations framework for development assistance. OHCHR's programmes also take into account existing or planned assistance from bilateral and other international donors. In this way, the technical cooperation programme aims at the elaboration of a comprehensive national strategy and programme framework for an integrated, coherent and coordinated response to national needs.

11. On 4 March 1998, the High Commissioner and the Administrator of UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen and expand institutional cooperation and coordination with a view to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities carried out within their respective mandates. UNDP has main responsibility for assisting in the strengthening of national capacities to achieve sustainable human development as well as for system-wide coordination of operational activities at the country level and OHCHR has main responsibility for the promotion of universal human rights, as well as system-wide coordination on all matters relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The adoption of a rights-based approach to all development cooperation remains an important challenge for OHCHR. Crucial coordination and in-country logistical support for OHCHR's projects are traditionally provided by UNDP through its network of field offices. Several joint initiatives are being carried out by both institutions in different regions.

12. OHCHR is presently also implementing numerous technical cooperation projects at the national, regional and global levels in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as with regional organizations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Staff College, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR), the United Nations Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and others.

D. Programme approach and methodology

1. Project identification and formulation

13. Technical cooperation activities and programmes are carried out exclusively within the framework of the relevant legislative mandates and at the request and with the agreement of the Government concerned. OHCHR, in most cases, responds to a Government's request by conducting an assessment of the country's particular needs, priorities and capacities in the field of human rights. This is usually done by fielding a needs assessment mission consisting of both staff and consultants. The assessment team meets with interested parties, both governmental and non-governmental, and works in close cooperation with the United Nations resident coordinator, United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as local donors. During the assessment, the team compiles detailed information on current policies, legislation, programmes and activities and human and financial capacities in key areas. The team thereby ensures that there is a clear understanding of government priorities, objectives, programmes and plans of action. The assessment provides the framework for developing possible future technical cooperation activities to strengthen national efforts in identified areas to contribute to the achievement of national objectives and, by ensuring coordination with existing or planned assistance from other donors, sometimes facilitates additional support from other international sources.

14. Following the needs assessment, OHCHR is usually requested to develop, in partnership with the Government, a project focusing on the problems to be addressed. A project document is prepared describing the situation, and the reasons why a project is initiated; outlining the plan of what will be done and what will be produced when, how and by whom; and assesses the situation that is expected to exist when the project ends. The project document becomes an agreement outlining the obligations and responsibilities of each partner in the project; provides the basis for accountability; includes a guide to planning and implementation; and provides the framework for evaluation and the criteria by which the success of the project will be assessed.

15. In many cases, a project formulation mission is undertaken by staff to enable them to consult closely with the Government and other partners on the final design of the proposed project, including problem analysis and definition, the identification of the intended solution and a strategy for achieving it. The mission also outlines the most appropriate inputs and implementation arrangements for the production of project outputs; the risks involved and how they can be avoided; and what human and financial resources are needed from OHCHR, the Government concerned, and other parties.

2. Project approval, funding and implementation

16. Technical cooperation projects are approved by OHCHR following review of the proposals by the recently established Project Review Committee (PRC), and with the advice of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (BOT/VFTC) if the project is to be funded from this fund. Both the PRC and the BOT/VFTC follow the activities and programmes closely through the periodical review of substantive reports of activities and expenditures. Status reports on the project activities and on the VFTC are

prepared quarterly and made available to member States to ensure maximum transparency and accountability in the implementation and management of the technical cooperation programme. Most of the information is regularly updated on the website (www.unhchr.ch). Funding for country projects is provided primarily under the Voluntary Fund. Sometimes, projects are funded or co-funded by other agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP.

17. In countries where a multi-year, multi-component technical cooperation project is being implemented, a Project Steering Committee is usually established, consisting of representatives of the main counterparts to the project, including government ministries, concerned United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions and, as appropriate, NGOs. The Committee meets periodically to review specific project developments and make recommendations concerning the timing and content of upcoming activities. The Committee may also recommend new activities in related areas in order to maximize the objectives of the project. The Committee ensures that the direct recipients of the project reflect the ethnic and gender composition of the country.

3. Project monitoring and evaluation

18. As part of standard procedures, project monitoring missions are undertaken by OHCHR Project Managers at least once a year. The purpose of such missions is to record progress in the work plan, to ensure efficient and effective project implementation, to identify any problems with a view to adapting project activities accordingly, and to adjust to new needs and conditions not foreseen at the design stage. Monitoring missions are frequently combined with project activities to allow for Project Managers to actively participate in meetings of the Project Steering Committee and/or seminars, workshops, training courses and other activities, usually as resource persons.

19. The final phase of a project cycle is an independent project evaluation once all activities provided for under the project have been completed. All evaluations are carried out by independent consultants, who assess the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the project activities and the impact and results. This process aims at ensuring that lessons learned are applied in the design and implementation of future projects, both in the country concerned and elsewhere.

E. Assistance to national human rights institutions

20. Both the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have requested the High Commissioner to accord priority to the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions. Such assistance is now a major component of the technical cooperation programme and is provided, in particular, by and through the Special Adviser on National Institutions, Regional Arrangements and Preventive Strategies to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, supported by OHCHR staff and consultants. The assistance is generally financed by contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation which are often specifically earmarked for national institutions. OHCHR activities in support of national institutions can be broadly divided

into two areas: the provision of practical advice and assistance to those involved in the establishment of new national institutions or the strengthening of existing ones; and facilitating international and regional meetings of national institutions. In 1998, assistance to such meetings included regional forums in Asia, Africa and Europe.

21. With regard to the establishment or strengthening of national institutions, a large number of countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, were the focus of assistance in 1998. Establishing an appropriate constitutional or legislative mandate for any new national institution is of primary importance as it is essential that the institution be able to respond adequately to the needs of the community it is established to serve. In recognition of the importance of the pre-establishment phase, the Special Adviser provided preliminary advice or assistance to a large number of countries considering or actually establishing or strengthening a national human rights institution. During 1998, those countries included Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda and Thailand.

22. Assistance is also provided to recently established national institutions. In South Africa, the Human Rights Commission is a central focus of the OHCHR technical cooperation project. A substantial project of technical assistance to the Latvian Human Rights Office is currently being implemented. In 1998, missions were sent to follow up arrangements for a comprehensive programme of support for the new Ugandan Human Rights Commission. Advice and assistance has also been provided to the new Human Rights Commission in Zambia. Other national institutions which have worked in cooperation with activities sponsored by the High Commissioner include those in India, Indonesia and the Philippines. In many of these countries, OHCHR is consulting and cooperating with UNDP in recognition of the close relationship between human rights, good governance and sustainable development. The High Commissioner has also encouraged the formulation of projects conducted in close cooperation with bilateral donors.

F. Integration of gender into the technical cooperation programme

23. In 1997 OHCHR commenced implementation of a project (developed jointly with the Division for the Advancement of Women) to integrate gender into its technical cooperation programme. A thorough review of the programme from this perspective was undertaken by a consultant recruited for that purpose. In March 1998, an expert group meeting was held to review the consultant's findings and to develop recommendations for future action. In addition to external experts, the meeting included representatives from the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM, UNFPA and ILO. The recommendations which emerged from this meeting are currently being implemented. Follow-up activities include the development, in July 1998, of detailed guidelines on gender and the human rights of women for use by OHCHR staff and consultants in the preparation and execution of all seminars and training activities. Similar guidelines for evaluating technical cooperation projects will be developed in the first quarter of 1999. It is expected that guidelines will,

as recommended by the expert group meeting, be supplemented by staff training and other efforts aimed at ensuring the integration of gender into the evolving methodology of technical cooperation.

G. Integration of economic, social and cultural rights into the technical cooperation programme

24. Also in 1997, OHCHR commenced implementation of a project to integrate economic, social and cultural rights into the technical cooperation programme. A research consultant was engaged to review all activities and projects to date with a view to identifying strengths and weaknesses in this area. In March 1998, an expert group meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to review the consultant's findings and to develop recommendations for future action. Participants included external experts and the Director of the United Nations Human Development Report Office. The recommendations which emerged from this meeting are currently being implementated. Follow-up activities include the development of a practitioners manual on integration of economic, social and cultural rights into the work of national human rights institutions; the organization of a pilot training session on human rights for staff of United Nations development agencies; and the holding of a national workshop on human rights in development policies with the participation of government officials, United Nations agency staff and civil society representatives. Further follow-up activities will be held throughout 1999 with a view to ensuring that technical cooperation methodology fully reflects this important set of rights.

H. Support to the Voluntary Fund

25. The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation was set up in 1993 pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/87, to advise the Secretary-General on the administration and operation of the Fund and to encourage contributions to the Fund. As at 31 December 1997, the Board was composed of the following members: Ms. Leila Takla (Egypt), Chairperson; Mr. Luis Pérez Aguirre (Uruguay); Ms. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium); Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji (Japan); and Mr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski (Poland). The Board is presently serviced by OHCHR through the Field Methodology and Advisory Services Team of the Activities and Programmes Branch.

26. In 1998, the Board held its ninth and tenth sessions, from 6 to 8 July and from 30 November to 3 December, respectively. During its sessions and through correspondence, the Board considered 18 new project proposals and 1 project addendum; reviewed 2 recently completed and evaluated projects; examined the implementation status of 10 current projects and activities; discussed project priorities, formats and procedures; reviewed the OHCHR criteria for project identification, formulation and evaluation; examined financial and administrative matters concerning the Fund and discussed the Board's fundraising efforts.

27. During 1998 technical cooperation projects were developed and/or approved for the following countries and/or regions: Azerbaijan, Croatia, Gabon, Guatemala (addendum), Indonesia, Madagascar, Philippines, Morocco,

Nicaragua, Georgia, Chad, Latin American region, Asian and Pacific region (3) and global (3). The reports of the ninth and tenth sessions of the Board are available at the secretariat upon request.

28. During the year the post of the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund remained vacant. The Team Leader of the Field Methodology and Advisory Services Team acted as Coordinator ad interim and made all efforts to keep the Board, the member States and donor countries well informed of all technical cooperation activities funded by the regular budget and the Voluntary Fund, as well as of the financial situation of the Fund. OHCHR has now completed the process of recruitment of the new Coordinator of the Fund and the person will take up his responsibilities early in 1999.

29. Present challenges for the Fund remain the need to receive more funding to implement all ongoing and pipeline projects, the review of the internal manual on guidelines and procedures of the technical cooperation programme in accordance with the recently approved procedures and priorities of OHCHR, and the training of the new 28 Geographical Country Desk Officers who will be responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring technical cooperation projects as part of their new functions.

I. Fellowship programme activities

30. Participants in fellowship activities during 1998 received intensive specialized training on the preparation and presentation of State reports to the main human rights treaty monitoring bodies as part of the two comprehensive 10-day training programmes. A first global training programme was conducted at the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy, and a second, regional training programme, for Spanish-speaking States was organized in close cooperation with the Government of El Salvador. A third regional training programme aimed at English-speaking Caribbean States is expected to take place in January 1999. All three training programmes were financed from the regular budget for technical cooperation in the field of human rights.

31. The global training programme, was conducted in English at the United Nations Staff College from 26 October to 6 November 1998. Participants from 13 countries attended the course: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Gambia, Iran, Kuwait (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen. Six experts and/or OHCHR staff members participated as resource persons. Subjects included migrant workers, NGOS and human rights mechanisms, the purpose of reporting, the right to development, and the conventions being reported on.

32. The second regional training course for Spanish-speaking States was conducted in San Salvador from 9 to 19 November 1998. Twenty-four international participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic (2), Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala (3), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as 12 representatives of local non-governmental organizations and 4 local United Nations staff attended the course. The course was organized by the OHCHR technical cooperation programme in Geneva

and implemented by the OHCHR field office in El Salvador in close cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Government of El Salvador. Six committee experts, including one gender expert from CEDAW, were invited to participate as resource persons in the training course.

33. The third training programme, organized in close cooperation with UNDP and UNICEF, is aimed at training government representatives of English-speaking Caribbean States and will be conducted in Guyana in January 1999. Participants from eight countries of the region are expected to participate in the training.

34. Challenges for the fellowship programme remain the follow-up and evaluation of the impact of the courses at the national level, as well as the translation of the training materials into other languages. Courses on reporting obligations include a session to familiarize participants with the treaty bodies database available on the OHCHR Website, as well as with updated procedures for the preparation of reports, including the incorporation of a gender perspective into the process of data collection, systematization of the information, and data analysis and presentation. Global and regional training programmes on reporting obligations are complemented by national training courses, as part of country programmes of technical cooperation.

J. Training materials developed to support technical cooperation

35. As part of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, OHCHR has been enhancing the development of its series of training manuals and handbooks, for use by both instructors and participants. OHCHR training materials support all training activities implemented within the framework of global, regional and national technical cooperation programmes. Training manuals contain the international standards relevant to the target audience, together with detailed advice on appropriate pedagogical techniques. In addition to enhancing training efforts carried out under the technical cooperation programme, the manuals constitute a valuable resource for organizations and individuals involved in human rights education at all levels.

36. Training packages available in English, French and Spanish, are published in the Professional Training Series of publications. The six titles published so far are: Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual of Social Work and the Social Work Profession (No. 1); Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections (No. 2); Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook of International Standards relating to Pre-Trial Detention (No. 3); National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (No. 4); Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police (No. 5); International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement: A Pocket Book on Human Rights for the Police (No. 5/Add.1).

37. Training and reference material that are under review and/or being used on a trial basis at the present time are: a training manual and trainer's guide on human rights monitoring; a handbook on conflict resolution; a trainers guide for civilian police monitors; a training manual for judges and

lawyers; a training manual, trainer's guide and pocket guide for prison officials; a training manual for journalists; and a training manual for the armed forces.

38. Other training and reference materials in the pipeline are: a training manual for primary and secondary school teachers; a training manual for national and local NGOs; a handbook for parliamentarians; a trainer's guide for military peacekeepers, a training manual for the treatment of victims of domestic violence for the police; and a handbook on human rights and constitutions.

39. The main constraint remains the lack of financial resources to translate all training materials into all official languages. The OHCHR regular budget available for publications is inadequate and some publications therefore have to be translated on an ad hoc basis, as part of global, regional or country programmes financed from the Voluntary Fund.

II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION FIELD ACTIVITIES IN 1998 1/

A. Projects completed and evaluated

40. The following project was completed and/or evaluated during the present year:

Guinea Conakry. A final independent evaluation was undertaken from 4 to 18 November 1998. The report of the final evaluation will be presented early in 1999.

41. The following projects were under review for the present year:

GLO/95/AH/31. Preparatory Assistance - Sensitization of the Armed Forces in Human Rights. Project under review; adjustments pending; BOT/VFTC informed about the project status at its tenth session.

RAF/95/AH/23. Regional Training in Human Rights for Heads of Military Academies in Africa. Cooperating agency: OAU. OHCHR contribution: US$ 235,074. Remarks: Project under review.

B. Projects under implementation 2/

1. Global projects

42. The global projects under implementation are the following:

GLO/95/AH/16. Support to the Implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004)

Date of approval by OHCHR:	4 April 1996
Project status:	Ongoing
United Nations Implementing Organ:	OHCHR

Cooperating agency: UNESCO

OHCHR contribution: US$ 857,200

Activities: survey of existing programmes, materials and organizations for human rights education at regional, national and local levels among all partners of the Decade (Governments, NGOS, IGOs); collection of materials for human rights education produced at the international, regional, national and local levels for human rights educators; grants provided to organizations and individuals at local level to undertake activities promoting and protecting human rights within the framework of the pilot phase of ACT (Assisting Communities Together), in cooperation with UNDP; expert meeting to revise the OHCHR human rights training package for prison officials (March 1998); training material on human rights being developed for different professional groups (prison officers, primary and secondary school teachers, judges, lawyers, national and local NGOS, human rights monitors, media); publications for pre-primary/primary school audience; constitution and support of a Media Advisory Board; on-going implementation of the reference material available on the OHCHR Website; production of a series of basic information kits under the title "1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", to facilitate information-sharing; inter-agency group meetings held on a regular basis to discuss individual or joint initiatives in connection with the fiftieth anniversary and a OHCHR-UNESCO joint project for the broad dissemination of the Universal Declaration in schools.

GLO/96/AH/24. Integration of a Gender Perspective into Technical Cooperation Practice and Procedures

Date of approval by OHCHR: 12 February 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Implementing agency: OHCHR with the cooperation of the Division for the Advancement of Women

OHCHR contribution: US$ 83,600 (tied contribution from New Zealand US$ 10,000)

Activities: project in its final phase. Two pilot activities envisaged under this phase have been implemented in Nepal. An additional pilot activity will be implemented in El Salvador in early 1999.

GLO/98/AH/02. Fifth Training Programme on Peacekeeping and Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR : 5 March 1998

Project status: Completed

Implementing agency: OHCHR, DPKO, United Nations Staff College Project

OHCHR contribution: US$ 39,358

Activities: One training programme at the United Nations Staff College for military and police trainers of peacekeeping contingents on peacekeeping, human rights and humanitarian assistance (April 1998).

GLO/98/AH/10. Integrating Human Rights in the United Nations System: Strengthening National Capacities for Human Rights Training of Military and Police Peacekeepers

Date of approval by OHCHR : 2 Oct. 1998

Project status: Completed

OHCHR contribution: US$ 165,878

Activities: training course on peacekeeping, human rights, humanitarian assistance for military and police trainers held in November 1998.

GLO/95/AH/09. Support to Action for National Human Rights Institutions

Project status: Ongoing

OHCHR contribution: US$ 59,490

Remarks: external evaluation of national institutions' activities under this project undertaken in April 1998; report to be issued.

GLO/96/AH/29. Integration of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into Technical Cooperation Practices and Procedures

Date of approval by OHCHR: 12 Feb. 1997

Project status: Ongoing

OHCHR contribution: US$ 83,600

Activities: project in its final phase. Pilot activities envisaged under this phase have been conducted in Nepal. Additional activities to be undertaken during 1999.

GLO/97/AH/01. Strengthening Human Rights in the former Yugoslavia

Date of approval by OHCHR : 3 Oct. 1997

Project status: Completed

OHCHR contribution: US$ 165,545

UNMIBH (in kind): US$ 20,000

Activities: three professionals recruited. Human rights training course for international and local police, jointly with UNMIBH (May to November 1998).

GLO/97/AH/20. Interim Measures for the Integration of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into Technical Cooperation Practices and Procedures

Date of approval by OHCHR : March 1998

Project status: Ongoing

OHCHR contribution: US$ 67,800

Source of funding: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation

Activities: consultants identified and draft outline for "Practitioners Handbook on Integrating Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into the Work of National Woman's Rights Commissions" prepared. Remarks: recruitment will take place in early 1999. Manual is expected to be ready for first test use in May 1999. Consultant identified. Recruitment will take place in early 1999.

2. African region

43. The regional projects being implemented in the African region are the following:

RAF/97/AH/21. Strengthening Cooperation in the African Region and Promoting the Development and Strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions

Date of approval by OHCHR: 20 March 1998

Project status: Ongoing

Cooperating agency: South African Human Rights Commission

OHCHR contribution: US$ 83,200

Activities: participation of OHCHR and African Commission in the third session of the group of experts to develop a protocol for the establishment of an African commission; participation of key national institutions to the Second Regional Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions (Durban, South Africa, 1-3 July 1998); participation of OHCHR in the preparation of the Conference (30 March-4 April 1998, Addis Ababa and Luanda; 15-16 July 1998, Addis Ababa). Project monitoring mission to Banjul, 24-31 October 1998.

RAF/96/AH/30. Strengthening of the Regional Mechanism for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 21 October 1997

Date of approval by African Commission: 30 October 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Cooperating agency: OAU

Implementing agency: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

OHCHR contribution: US$ 381,940

Activities: coordination mission in Addis Ababa and Luanda (27 March to 4 April 1998) to prepare the first African Ministerial Conference on Human and Peoples' Rights to be held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 24 to 31 January 1999. Remarks: addendum to project authorized by OHCHR in June 1998. Project monitoring mission took place in Banjul from 24 to 31 October 1998.

44. The national projects being implemented in the African region are the following:

Burundi BDI/97/AH/06. Strengthening of the Rule of Law

Date of approval by OHCHR: 3 November 1997

Date of approval by Government: 23 October 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Rights

OHCHR contribution: US$ 919,045

Activities: training course for Bujumbura secondary school teachers (28 September-2 October 1998); training course for "Magistrats des Tribunaux de Résidence" (2-27 March 1998); meetings with members of local human rights associations to plan the activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (May 1998); first session of training of police officers (5-16 October 1998); training seminar for primary school principals (9-31 March 1998); training courses for law enforcement officers (5-16 October 1998); training course for high-level military magistrates (6-31 July 1998); monitoring of the implementation of a human rights chair at the Institut supérieur pour les cadres militaires. Remarks: third phase of three-year project started in 1994, aiming at consolidating the results of the past projects.

Burundi
BDI/96/AH/21. Legal Assistance to Burundi

Date of approval by OHCHR:	23 September 1996
Date of approval by Government:	10 October 1996
Project status:	Ongoing (extended for 1998)
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 565,000 (tied contribution from Sweden, Norway and Belgium US$ 275,018 and pledge from Sweden US$ 390,000)

Activities: OHCHR secured international lawyers at three sessions of the three Criminal Chambers of the country: first session (January to February 1998) covered by advocates, second and third sessions (May and June 1998) covered by two teams of five lawyers.

Malawi
MLW/95/AH/34. Consolidation of the Democratic Process

Date of approval by OHCHR:	24 April 1996
Date of approval by Government:	12 July 1996
Project status:	Ongoing
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Justice
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 786,378

Activities: consultancy on legal reforms completed. Human Rights Commission workshop (30 November-1 December 1998).

Morocco
MOR/96/AH/20. Introducing Human Rights Curricula in Primary and Secondary Schools

Date of approval by OHCHR:	21 February 1997
Date of approval by Government:	14 March 1997
Project status:	Ongoing
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Education and Ministry in charge of Human Rights

OHCHR contribution: US$ 326,000

European Commission contribution: US$ 450,000

Activities: project monitoring mission (13-18 January 1998); training workshop for "Inspecteurs de l'enseignement" (April 1998). Remarks: memorandum of intent signed by the Government and by OHCHR on 28 April 1998 for the creation of a documentation and training centre for human rights; project formulation mission undertaken from 22 to 30 July 1998. Memorandum of understanding signed by the Government and OHCHR in April 1998. Project approved by the project steering committee on 24 September 1998. Project presented to the tenth session of BOT/VFTC.

Namibia
NAM/96/AH/10. Assistance in the Implementation of Human Rights Standards

Date of approval by OHCHR: 19 June 1997

Date of approval by Government: July 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry of Justice

OHCHR contribution: US$ 293,800

Government input: US$ 18,000

Activities: training for police, prison officers, the military and the judiciary (16-20 March 1998).

South Africa
SAF/96/AH/16. Human Rights Institutional Strengthening

Date of approval by OHCHR: 30 April 1997

Date of approval by Government: November 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry of Justice

OHCHR contribution: US$ 1,014,627

Government input: US$ 101,034

Activities: grant for human rights training at Fort Harare University (January 1998); national project personnel recruited (April 1998); printing of human rights documents; human rights training for the administration of justice; assistance to police; support to the Land Commission; support to the Second Regional Conference on Human Rights Commissions.

Togo
TOG/95/AH/18. Support to Development of a Human Rights Culture and the Rule of Law

Date of approval by OHCHR: 16 January 1996

Date of approval by Government: 26 January 1996

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry of Human Rights

OHCHR contribution: US$ 630,382

Activities: establishment of information and documentation centre ongoing; US$ 50,000 grant to human rights NGOs (December 1998); 1 training course for judges and lawyers (Lomé, 23-27 March 1998); 1 training course for members of the National Commission to Harmonize the Legislation (31 August-4 September 1998); 1 training course for primary and secondary teachers on the teaching of human rights (26-30 October 1998); fellowship for documentalists (Ottawa, Canada, 4-29 May 1998); 2 consultative missions of experts for the revision of national legislation (30 November-4 December 1998) and for the introduction of the teaching of human rights in primary and secondary schools (14-18 December 1998); purchase of human rights publications for the national jurisdiction organs, local NGOS, the National Commissions on Human Rights and the National Commission to Harmonize the Legislation (July 1998). Remarks: project monitoring mission undertaken from 26 to 30 November 1998. Final project evaluation mission will be undertaken in January 1999.

3. Asian and Pacific region 3/

45. The regional and national projects in the Asian-Pacific region are the following:

Bhutan
BHU/95/AH/20. Strengthening National Human Rights Capacity

Date of approval by OHCHR: 4 October 1996

Date of approval by Government: 30 September 1996

Project status: Ongoing

OHCHR Contribution: US$ 290,600

Activities: seminar for district court judges on judicial functions (15-19 June 1998); provision of documentation for the High Court library (1998-1999).

Mongolia
MON/98/AH/03. Programme for Strengthening National Infrastructures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 18 May 1998

Date of approval by Government: 18 May 1998

Project status: Ongoing

OHCHR contribution: US$ 217,551

Activities: follow-up of project MON/98/AH/09. Preparatory arrangements for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration: activities will be carried out jointly with other United Nations agencies, the Government, local media and NGOs; human rights law textbooks have been proposed to the Board of Advisers established to review and adopt the human rights curricula for universities; penitentiary legislation being translated into English for review of its compliance with international norms and standards.

Nepal
NEP/95/AH/21. Strengthening the Administration of Justice and Building National Human Rights Capacity

Date of approval by OHCHR: 7 June 1996

Date of approval by Government: 16 October 1996

Project status: Ongoing

Government/institutional counterpart: Ministry for Foreign Affairs

OHCHR contribution: US$ 441,050

Activities: training course for NGOS in international mechanisms and procedures for the protection of human rights (8-12 June 1998); report available; translation, printing of compilation of international instruments; Government, United Nations and NGO workshop on development policies and human rights (23-27 November 1998); training materials for the Police Academy (1998-1999); grants to NGO projects (1998-1999); activities on human rights, forced prostitution and trafficking of women and children (1998-1999); consultancy mission on police standing orders (19 April-1 May 1998) for the follow-up of police training programmes; publication and distribution of standing orders to all police staff (November-December 1998); reports available. This project has been linked to GLO/98/AHB/24 and GLO/96/AHB/29. All project components have been revised to integrate gender and economic, social and cultural rights. A specific focus on trafficking of women and children and forced prostitution will be given to activities to be implemented in 1999.

Papua New Guinea
PNG/97/AH/05/I. Capacity Development for the Human Rights Commission

Date of approval by OHCHR: 7 August 1997

Project status: Completed

Government/institutional counterpart: Attorney General's Department

OHCHR contribution: US$ 89,900

Remarks: follow-up project to PNG/96/AH/04 to assist the newly established Human Rights Commission; final evaluation mission postponed due to natural disaster; a further follow-up project has been prepared. It will be finalized once legislation establishing the Human Rights Commission is passed by Parliament.

4. Central and Eastern Europe/CIS countries

46. The projects in the Central and Eastern European/CIS countries are the following:

Albania
ALB/92/AH/04. Country Programme

Date of approval by OHCHR: 30 January 1992

Date of approval by Government: 13 February 1992

Project status: Completed

OHCHR contribution: US$ 163,000

Remarks: Project evaluation to be undertaken in 1999.

Armenia
ARM/95/AH/11. Strengthening Capacities for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 30 May 1996

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Department of Human Rights

OHCHR contribution: US$ 232,215

Activities: translation of International Conventions into Armenian; editing and distribution of translated documents (February 1998). Remarks: workshop

on development of a national plan of action in the field of human rights will be held in January 1999 for government officials, NGOs, educators and legal community. Independent project evaluation mission will be undertaken in early 1999.

Azerbaijan
AZE/95/AH/12. Strengthening Capacities and Infrastructure for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 15 July 1998

Date of approval by Government: 28 July 1998

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry of Justice

OHCHR contribution: US$ 405,000

Counterpart government budget: (In kind) 65,250,000 manat

Activities: mission by the project manager to initiate activities for the project from 19 to 23 October 1998.

Georgia
GEO/95/AH/13. Strengthening Capacities and Infrastructures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 8 October 1997

Date of approval by Government: 17 October 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Ministry for Foreign Affairs

OHCHR contribution: US$ 715,397

Activities: 2 new international human rights officers recruited to work in the Sukhumi office (June and December 1998); training for human rights education combined with project monitoring mission (October 1998): grant agreement with the implementing NGOs concluded (August 1998); analysis and selection of books for depository library begun; 2 government officials participated in the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Reporting Course (Turin, October 1998); 2 Georgian academics funded to participate in a human rights course at Birmingham University, with theoretical and practical training (September-November 1998); project steering committee meeting (October 1998).

Latvia
LAT/95/AH/17. Capacity Development of the National Human Rights Office

Date of approval by OHCHR:	12 January 1996
Date of approval by Government:	January 1996
Project status:	Ongoing
Government implementing agency:	Latvian Human Rights Office
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 694,950
Counterpart government budget:	21,000 lats (US$ 42,000)

Activities: 2 government officials attended a regional meeting on human rights in Yalta (August 1998); purchase of human rights library resource materials and books (December 1998); 2 government officials were sponsored to attend a training on European Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Strasbourg, France (November 1998); Senior Adviser in situ provided institutional development support (November 1998); senior national institution consultant completed mission to Latvia (May 1998) on improvement of office management (joint consultancy paid by OHCHR and UNDP); project steering committee meetings with the participation of the Project Manager (February and October 1998); planning of the Universal Declaration fiftieth anniversary events and other activities (end of 1998); retreat for staff of national institutions with training on policy and programme planning (November 1998); information brochure on complaint consideration published in 100,000 copies (November 1998).

Republic of Moldova
MOL/97/AH/19. Support to Democratic Initiatives in the Field of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR:	19 December 1997
Date of approval by Government:	29 December 1997
Date of approval by UNDP:	6 January 1998
Project status:	Ongoing
Government implementing agency:	Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Permanent Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities of the Parliament of Moldova
Implementing agency:	The Moldova Human Rights Centre
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 147,000

Counterpart UNDP budget: US$ 279,000

Counterpart government budget (in kind): Moldovan lei 342,000

Activities: international consultant on human rights institution organizational design and human resources recruited from 25 April to 8 May 1998 for a mission to complete organizational, financial and office work plans for the Moldovan Human Rights Centre in Chisinau; second mission of the international consultant (November-December 1998).

5. Latin American and Caribbean region

47. The projects in the Latin American and Caribbean region are the following:

RLA/98/AH/01. Second Regional Training Course on Reporting Obligations for Spanish-Speaking States, Brazil and Equatorial Guinea

Date of approval by OHCHR: 1 May 1998

Project status: Completed

Host country: El Salvador

Source of funding: Regular budget for technical assistance

Total cost: US$ 101,300

Activities: training course held from 9 to 19 November 1998 in San Salvador. Spanish-speaking governmental and non-governmental participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic (2), Ecuador, El Salvador (16), Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala (3), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and 4 local United Nations staff members. Six experts hired as resource persons from relevant treaty bodies. Report available.

RLA/96/AH/09. Strengthening Democratic Institutions in the Andean Region (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela)

Date of approval by OHCHR: 8 October 1996

Project status: Ongoing

Cooperating agency: Andean Commission of Jurists (ACJ)

OHCHR contribution: US$ 392,761

Activities: 2 seminars for magistrates combined with project monitoring mission (Lima, 27-29 May 1998 and Bogota, October 1998); establishment of regional information network. Remarks: new memorandum of understanding between ACJ and OHCHR signed in October 1998. Independent project evaluation to be undertaken early in January 1999. Project extension under consideration.

RLA/96/AH/12. Pilot Project: Strengthening of Police Institutions for the Improvement of Police Application of Human Rights Standards in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Date of approval by OHCHR:	8 October 1996
Project status:	Completed
Implementing agency:	United Nations Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) in cooperation with the Police of Costa Rica
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 234,752

Activities: workshop on police-community activities implemented in Costa Rica (15-17 October 1998); two police officers and two community representatives per country (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama) participated; four country studies on positive police-community activities were completed (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama); Guidelines to improve police-community activities elaborated as a result of workshop. Project monitoring mission undertaken in October 1998 in combination with the workshop on police-community activities. Follow-up will be done in cooperation with the National Police of Nicaragua.

RLA/95/AH/32. Preparatory Assistance: Strengthening International Human Rights Standards Application in the Penitentiary System of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Date of approval by OHCHR:	5 June 1996
Project status:	Ongoing
Implementing agency:	OHCHR
Cooperating agency:	ILANUD
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 150,625

Activities: national workshops in Costa Rica and Panama to discuss findings of studies and elaborate penitentiary policies implemented (19-20 October and 22-23 October 1998); national country studies on the penitentiary system in conformity with international human rights standards completed in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. National workshops in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador to be implemented February/March 1999. Second project monitoring mission undertaken in October 1998 in combination with the national workshop on penitentiary policies. Third project monitoring mission to be undertaken in combination with February/March 1999 workshops in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. The study on the penitentiary system in Guatemala is expected to be completed during 1999.

Argentina
ARG/95/AH/33. Strengthening Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 22 January 1996

Date of approval by Government: 14 February 1996

Project status: Ongoing

Government implementing agency: Under Secretariat of Human and Social Rights of the Ministry of Interior

OHCHR contribution: US$ 335,257

Government contribution: US$ 223,040

Activities: publication of two biannual journals; one provincial police training course; one course on reporting obligations; one training course for lawyers; one course for university teachers; one course for documentalists (August 1998); provision of human rights documentation. Project monitoring mission undertaken in August 1998. Independent final project evaluation to be undertaken during the second semester of 1999.

El Salvador
ELS/95/AH/10. Training and Documentation on Human Rights
ELS/95/AH/28. Police and Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR: 16 December 1996

Date of approval by Government: 6 January 1997

Project status: Ongoing

Government coordinating agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

OHCHR contributions: US$ 1,325,637 and US$ 456,836

Activities: advisory services on human rights policies, plans and programmes to Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Legislative Assembly, the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), the Salvadoran Institute for the Protection of Minors (ISPM), Armed Forces, Ministry of Justice, National Civilian Police, Police Academy and the Inspector General of the Police continued. Training activities: human rights training courses for military officers, police, penitentiary personnel and legislators continued; government officials and NGOs in charge of preparing reports to treaty monitoring bodies were trained and a consultation process for the elaboration of reports was established; government officials working with young offenders and minors under special circumstances continued. Fellowships: three police trainers and one local staff participated in a human rights course in Strasbourg (July 1998). Two trainers of the Military Academy participated in a human rights and humanitarian law seminar in San Remo (September 1998). Two police officers attended a human rights

training course in Spain. Project steering committee held its third and fourth meetings in January and July 1998, fifth meeting to be held at the end of January 1999. Project monitoring missions were combined with meetings and other project activities. Project director on consultations at OHCHR in Geneva in April and August 1998. Independent mid-term project evaluation to be undertaken in February 1999. Technical cooperation agreement will be reviewed during the first quarter of 1999. One year extension of agreement to consolidate cooperation under consideration.

Guatemala
GUA/96/AH/13/Add.1. Strengthening of National Capacities in the Field of Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR:	25 November 1996
Date of approval by Government:	11 December 1996
Project status:	Ongoing
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of External Relations, Ministry of Interior and COPREDEH (Presidential Human Rights Committee)
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 701,692

Activities: strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman continued all throughout 1998. Group training activities on international instruments for the protection of human rights completed in March 1998. Support given to MINUGUA for the training of the civilian police continued. Internal monitoring mission undertaken in April 1998. Addendum to project prepared by OHCHR in August 1998 to adjust the planned activities in order to better meet the objectives. The project duration has been extended for 18 months.

Haiti
HAI/95/AH/03. Institutional Capacity-Building in the Legal Sector and Support to the National Truth Commission

Date of approval by OHCHR:	21 August 1997 (revised project document)
Date of approval by Government:	6 June 1997
Project status:	Ongoing
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 728,986

Remarks: project activities agreed to be implemented by MICIVIH as of March 1998.

During its tenth session, BOT/VFTC recommended to review the arrangement for the implementation of project activities.

Paraguay
PAR/95/AH/35. Preparatory Assistance: Plan of Action for the Elaboration and Implementation of National Policies on Human Rights

Date of approval by OHCHR:	22 January 1996 (revised project document approved 27 November 1996)
Date of approval by Government:	March 1997
Project status:	Completed
Government implementing agency:	Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Justice and Labour
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 91,594

Activities: advisory missions of international expert undertaken between October 1997 and August 1998. One national consultant hired to support the process of consultation. Publication of the report of an international seminar on human rights policies completed and available.

Project monitoring mission undertaken in July 1998. Follow-up will be defined after current Government adopts Human Rights National Plan of Action.

6. Arab States

48. The projects in the Arab States are the following:

Palestine
PAL/95/AH/24. Support for the Rule of Law

Date of approval by OHCHR:	24 April 1996
Date of approval by Palestinian Authority:	17 April 1996
Project status:	Ongoing
Government implementing agency:	Palestinian National Authority
OHCHR contribution:	US$ 3,200,000

The project is being implemented through the OHCHR office in Gaza. A project expansion was agreed in February 1998. The project is currently scheduled to continue until December 1999.

Activities: **1. Establishing a legal framework consistent with international standards**. One fellowship for training on legal drafting (one month) for one staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Palestinian Authority (February 1998); provision of advisory services on the draft law on access of disabled people to public buildings; financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR) for legal analysis of

drafts of public gathering, police force, and labour laws. PICCR organized several workshops with governmental and civil society representatives to discuss draft laws and formulate recommendations. Four publications were produced by PICCR containing the proceedings of the workshops on police and the use of force, public gatherings, the judiciary, and labour laws (January-November 1998); advisory services to the Palestinian Legislative Council on the formulation of the prison and judiciary laws. Laws adopted by the Council in June and November 1998, respectively (law on the judiciary is pending signature by the President of the Palestinian Authority); advisory services on the draft bar association law and participation in two workshops organized by the Palestinian Bar Association (January-November 1998); financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian Society for Legal Sciences to review the criminal procedure code and formulate recommendations for reform (August 1998); financial and technical assistance and documentation to the Law Institute of Bir Zeit University (BZLI) to conduct research on sources of legislation and formulate recommendations to the Palestinian legislators. The research was completed and two workshops were organized by BZLI in Gaza and the West Bank to discuss its results (September 1998). The final report is to be submitted. Financial and technical assistance to Mashirqiyyat (Oriental Horizons) to conduct legal research and consultations on the development of personal status laws (September 1998). **2. Development of an official policy on human rights**. Development of a working paper and framework for the formulation of a Palestinian national plan of action for human rights, summarizing other countries' experience on national plans of action, proposing a participatory process for the definition of the plan, and compiling relevant international standards (September-November 1998); consultations with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, other ministries and civil society organizations on the development of the national plan of action (January-November 1998). **3. Strengthening national human rights structures for the promotion and protection of human rights**. PICCR completed its activities under the first grant by OHCHR to strengthen its monitoring, research and outreach capacities through the establishment of field workers, and submitted its final report (March 1998). Second grant provided to continue and expand activities in this area (November 1998). Training to PICCR and members of non-governmental organizations on international human rights and humanitarian law (October 1998). **4. Non-governmental organizations**. The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights completed its project under an OHCHR grant, including the establishment of a Women and Group Rights Unit to carry out research, legal aid and education activities on women's issues. Two publications on personal status law were produced. The Unit provided legal assistance to women's groups and individuals, and organized workshops for community organizations and representatives to raise awareness on women's rights. The final report of the project was received (April 1998). Participated in several NGO workshops on women, labour, disabled people, elections, social security, role of NGOs and the International Criminal Court (January-October 1998). **5. Police**. Pocket Guide on Human Rights Standards for Palestinian Police with foreword by the President of the Palestinian Authority published (12,000 copies) and distributed to the Palestinian Police Force (March 1998); one advanced training course for 20 Palestinian police trainers on international human rights norms and system held in Geneva (April 1998); one training course for 25 police commanders in the West Bank completed (June-July 1998); one train-the-trainers course for 19 police officers held in Jericho

(August 1998); 20 sessions on human rights and law enforcement provided by OHCHR in training courses organized by all branches of the Palestinian Police Force or bilateral donors in Gaza and the West Bank (January-October 1998); ongoing assistance provided to police trainers in the organization and provision of human rights training to the Police Force and in the integration of human rights into regular police training (January-October 1998); nine working sessions with police trainers to review OHCHR training materials for the Palestinian Police Force held in Gaza (October 1998).

C. Field presences and technical cooperation

49. During the past few years, the involvement of OHCHR in field activities has significantly increased, ranging from the establishment of offices to supporting mandates of the Commission for Human Rights to offices with a technical cooperation and/or a monitoring mandate. Today, OHCHR has established the following 22 offices: Abkhazia (Georgia); Angola (with DPKO); Burundi; Cambodia; Central African Republic (DPKO); Colombia; Democratic Republic of the Congo; El Salvador; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Gaza; Guatemala; Liberia (Department of Political Affairs); Malawi; Mongolia; Sierra Leone (DPKO); South Africa; Southern Africa Regional Office and Togo. Most of them have a mandate for the provision of advisory services and/or for the implementation of technical cooperation projects. These field offices have allowed OHCHR to respond to requests for assistance by member States, develop cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies and programmes in the field as well as with international and national non-governmental organizations and training and academic institutions.

50. Field operations are substantively guided, monitored and periodically evaluated by the OHCHR through the Country Desk Officers and the newly established Field Methodology and Advisory Services Team of the Activities and Programmes Branch in the new OHCHR structure in place as of 1 February. Efforts to improve the OHCHR response to the field offices, both substantively and administratively, have included, during 1998, the recruitment of a short-term Special Adviser on Field Operations for the review of the field experiences, the preparation of a manual on human rights monitoring, the revision of the technical cooperation manual on procedures and guidelines; the adoption of guidelines for the elaboration of annual work plans and the preparation of monthly, quarterly and six-monthly reports of activities; the holding of a meeting of heads of field presences to exchange experiences in the field, the increased emphasis on transparent and effective recruitment procedures to secure qualified staff, and the signing of an agreement with UNOPS to provide administrative support to activities in the field.

51. The meeting of the heads of field presences, held in Geneva from 4 to 7 August 1998, allowed OHCHR an opportunity to discuss policy, organizational and methodological issues related to all field presences, for a constructive exchange of experiences between the various field presences and between Geneva and the field, for the identification of common challenges and issues, and for the consideration of ways and means to address them. The consolidation of the OHCHR policy, strategy and methodology in relation to field presences, including field presences with a technical cooperation

mandate, is a major challenge and a priority to enhance effectiveness. An Internal Task Force to follow up on the recommendations of the meeting will be established.

52. The consolidation of the substantive and administrative support to the field presences is an ongoing challenge for OHCHR, given the nature of the activities and the need to have an efficient but flexible mechanism that will allow OHCHR to respond to all the needs in the field in a prompt manner.

D. Technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation

53. Technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation in the African region are the following:

Regional - Africa. Strengthening Regional and National Capacities for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Southern Africa;

Cameroon. Needs assessment mission/project formulation mission undertaken on 10 to 17 December 1998. UNDP-OHCHR joint project for strengthening of the National Commission of Human Rights and the establishment of a Regional Human Rights Institute;

Chad. Preparatory Assistance for the Strengthening of Human Rights and Governance. Joint OHCHR-UNDP needs assessment mission undertaken from 24 March to 7 April and a project formulation mission from 2 to 13 October 1998. Activities are expected to start in early 1999;

Gabon. Development of National Capacities for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights. New request approved on 9 June 1998 by the project steering committee and BOT/VFTC. Project document signed by OHCHR on 10 November 1998 and sent to Government and UNDP for signature. Activities are expected to start in early 1999;

Guinea-Bissau. Technical Assistance on the Revision and Codification of Legislation Concerning the Family;

Lesotho. Support for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law. Pending negotiation with Government;

Madagascar. New request for technical cooperation in strengthening of national capacities in the field of human rights approved on 9 June 1998 by the project steering committee and BOT/VFTC. Project document signed by OHCHR on 10 September 1998 and by Government and UNDP on 1 October 1998. Legal agreement under preparation. Activities are expected to start in early 1999;

Mali. Technical Assistance to the Government in View of Strengthening Human Rights Structures. 1997 needs assessment mission report was presented to the Government;

Mauritius. Mauritius (Administration of Justice): draft project document being prepared;

Niger. Joint OHCHR-UNDP needs assessment mission undertaken from 28 August to 4 September 1998. Report has been sent to Government for comments;

Sierra Leone. Strengthening Grass-Roots Human Rights Education Initiatives. Project document approved on 12 November 1998 by the project steering committee. Activities are expected to start early 1999;

Sao Tome and Principe. Strengthening National Capacities for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

Somalia. Project formulation mission undertaken from 31 October to 14 November 1998. Project is expected to initiate in early 1999 (two-year project);

Uganda. Support to Establish a National Institution. Project document signed by OHCHR in September 1998. Meeting of project committee convened by UNDP/OHCHR in September 1998. Implementation expected to start in early 1999;

United Republic of Tanzania. Strengthening Human Rights Capacities. Project document signed by the Government and UNDP in January 1998. Pending signature of OHCHR.

54. Technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation in the Asian and Pacific region are the following:

Regional projects - Asia and Pacific (3). Strengthening Cooperation in the Asian-Pacific Region and Promoting the Development and Strengthening of Human Rights Institutions; Promoting National Human Rights Institutions in Asia and the Pacific: Training Programme on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Promoting National Human Rights Institutions in Asia and the Pacific: Development of Training Programme on Investigatory Techniques. Projects presented to BOT/VFTC at its tenth session;

Indonesia. Support for the Implementation of Indonesia's National Plan of Action on Human Rights - Phase I. Memorandum of understanding signed by Government and OHCHR in October 1994. Project document presented to BOT/VFTC at its tenth session in November 1998 and approved by the project steering committee in November 1998. Technical cooperation will require the establishment of a field office to support all programmes and activities which are expected to start in early 1999;

Philippines. Protecting the Rights of Children in Conflict with the Law. Project formulation mission took place from 21 September to 3 October 1998. Project submitted during the tenth session of BOT/VFTC. Activities will start in early 1999. Project being implemented jointly by OHCHR and UNICEF;

Viet Nam. Administration of Juvenile Justice. Revision of the proposed project proposal has been agreed with the Government.

55. Technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation in the Central and Eastern European/CIS region are the following:

Regional - Central and Eastern Europe/CIS countries. Regional Programme for Institutional and Capacity Development on United Nations Human Rights Standards, Procedures and Reporting. Project document under preparation;

Belarus. Strengthening Capacities and Infrastructures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Discussion to agree on project with UNDP and Government held in July 1998. Waiting for signature of Government;

Croatia. Strengthening Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Croatia. Project document endorsed by BOT/VFTC and approved by the project steering committee;

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Promotion of Human Rights. Project formulation mission undertaken in 1997;

Georgia. Capacity-Building of the Public Defender's Office. Financial support to a UNDP project on a national institution of human rights. Presented to the tenth session of BOT/VFTC;

Kazakhstan. Development of the National Human Rights Commission. Joint project with UNDP. Awaiting recommendation of the OHCHR Senior Adviser on National Institutions to determine participation;

Kyrgyzstan. Strengthening the Capacities in Electoral Administration and in Developing Human Rights Curricula. Project steering committee approved the project formulation mission in March 1998. Waiting for UNDP to set dates of mission;

Russian Federation. Human Rights Education Capacity Development. Signature of project document by Government awaited.

56. Technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation in the Latin American and Caribbean region are the following:

Regional - Latin America. Dissemination of the International and Regional Norms for Protection of Human Rights in the Americas. Pending further consultation with OAS. Project endorsed by BOT/VFTC at its ninth session;

Bolivia. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Project document signed by OHCHR on 27 August 1998, by UNDP on 14 October 1998 and by Government on 9 November 1998. Mission to initiate project activities envisaged to take place in December 1998. Activities are expected to start in early 1999;

Chile. Interdisciplinary Programme on Ethics and Human Rights. Project document endorsed by BOT/VFTC at its ninth session. Project being finalized;

Ecuador. Strengthening National Capacities through the Implementation of the Human Rights National Plan of Action in Ecuador. Advisory mission of the OHCHR Senior Adviser on National Institutions took place in November 1998. Report of the mission to be presented in December 1998. Technical cooperation agreement to be defined.

57. Global technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation are the following:

GLO/97/AH/22. AIDS and Human Rights: Strengthening the Capacities of National Human Rights Institutions to Address the Human Rights Implication of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic. Joint project with UNAIDS. Administration of project to be finalized prior to submission to OHCHR for signature;

GLO/98/AH/21. To Protect and Promote the Right of Internally Displaced Persons by Strengthening and Building National Capacities for the Implementation of the Guiding Principles. Project submitted to the tenth session of BOT/VFTC in November 1998.

F. New requests received

58. New technical cooperation received from the African region are the following:

Botswana. Ongoing negotiations with Government. Joint UNDP-OHCHR programme;

Congo. Request for technical cooperation on human rights education introduced on 3 February 1998;

Djibouti. New request for technical cooperation presented in January 1998;

Mauritania. Request for needs assessment mission (December 1998);

Tunisia. Arab Institution of Human Rights presented a request for funding.

59. New technical cooperation received from the Asian and Pacific region are the following:

Bangladesh. Requested assistance for technical cooperation in July 1998;

China. Provision of human rights documentation;

Islamic Republic of Iran. New request for technical cooperation in the field of human rights education presented in October 1998. Request under consideration.

60. New technical cooperation received from the Latin American and Caribbean region are the following:

Regional. Domestic Violence: Development and Testing of a Training Manual for Law Enforcement Officials. Proposal submitted and endorsed by BOT/VFTC at its tenth session in November 1998. Project to be implemented jointly with ILANUD. Countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay;

Brazil. Request for training of the police. Presented in 1997 and reiterated on 5 February 1998;

Nicaragua. Right to Security: Preventive Police-Community and Human Rights Actions. Project submitted and endorsed by BOT/VFTC at its tenth session in November 1998;

Panama. Request for training police on handling of domestic violence. Assistance will be covered by above-mentioned regional project to be implemented with ILANUD;

Venezuela. National Commission of Human Rights requested technical assistance on 27 April 1998. UNDP requested funding for human rights activities on 11 May 1998; possibilities for technical cooperation activities should be foreseen in 1999;

Peru. Request for technical assistance presented by the Ministry of Justice. Project steering committee approved a needs assessment mission in August 1998. Dates for mission pending;

Peru. Request for assistance presented by the Defensoría del Pueblo in September 1998. Joint initiative with UNDP;

Mexico. Request for assistance presented by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Consultations with Government have been initiated for a possible needs assessment mission.

Notes

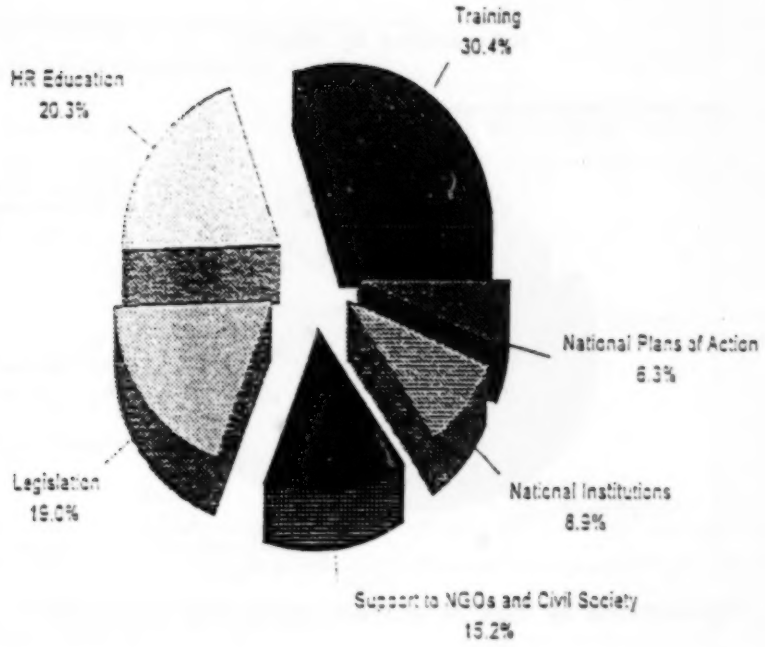
1/ Detailed information on OHCHR technical cooperation activities in the field of human rights is available on the OHCHR Website (http://www.unhchr.ch), the quarterly status report on technical cooperation in the field of human rights, the quarterly status report on contributions to the VFTC, reports of the sessions of the BOT/VFTC; the compilation of project fact sheets, monthly, quarterly and six-monthly reports of field presence and separate reports of all seminars, training activities and workshops.

2/ All projects are funded from the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, unless otherwise indicated.

3/ The report of the technical cooperation activities of the field office in Cambodia is available as a separate document (E/CN.4/1999/100).

Annex I

1998 Country Projects Focus



Education: formal education activities, training for teachers, curricula development, establishment of information and documentation centres.

Legislation: assistance in reforming national legislation according to international standards as identified in United Nations and regional human rights instruments; may include training for national parliaments.

National Institutions: assistance in establishing and strengthening national Human Rights Commissions; may include training and assistance to legislative bodies.

National Plans of Action: assistance in elaboration and implementation of National Plans of Action.

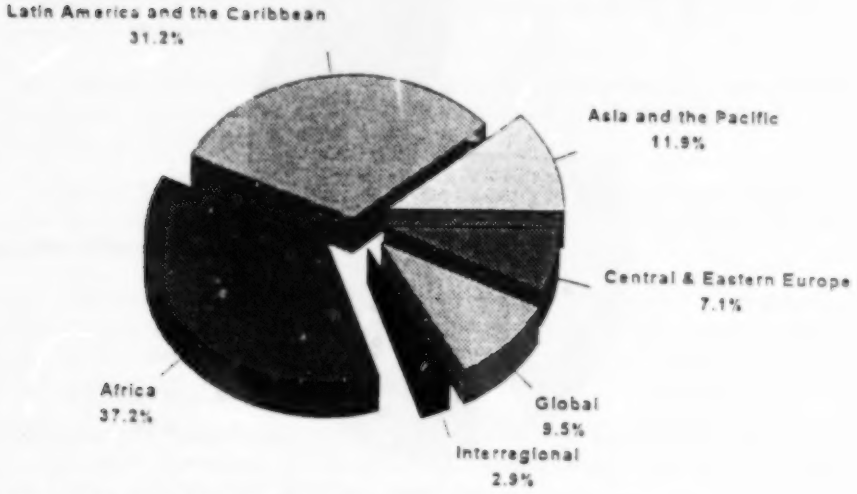
Training: courses for law enforcement officials, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police, prison and government officials, and the armed forces.

Support to NGO and Civil Society: activities involving NGOs as beneficiaries (e.g. grants) and participants (e.g. seminars, support to NGO projects).

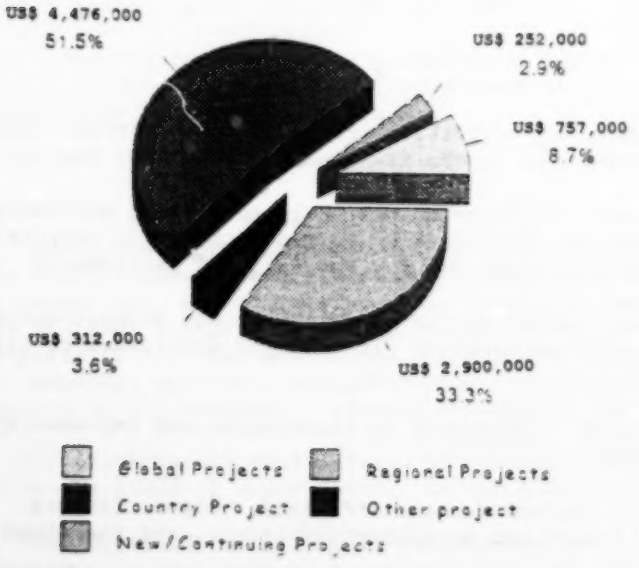
Annex II

1998 Technical Cooperation Budgetary Allocations

Allocations by region



Allocations by type of project (total US$ 8,732,957)



Annex III

United Nations Volun tary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights: annual balance sheet as of 30 November 1998 (US$) a/

	1997		
1.	Income		
	Previous balance as of 31 December 1997		4 275 487
	Unliquidated obligations as of 1997		2 281 471
		Balance	1 994 016
	1998		
	1998 Paid contributions (b/) (c/)		7 076 409
	Interest		242 941
		Total	7 319 350
		Total income	9 313 366
2.	1998 Expenditures		
	1998 Allotments		6 308 300
	Programme support costs 13%		820 079
		Total expenditures	7 128 379
3.	Fund balance		2 184 987
	1999		
4.	Budgetary requirements for 1999		19 347 645
4.1	Ongoing projects		
	(Financial requirements to carry out ongoing project activities; see annex 1)		12 578 182
4.2	Pipeline projects		
	(Total budget of the project proposals in the advanced stage of preparation; see annex 2)		6 769 463
5.	Funding requirements		
5.1	Funding requirements for ongoing projects only (3-4.1)		(10 393 195)
5.2	Overall funding requirements (4-5)		(17 162 658)

a/ This balance sheet has been prepared by the secretariat of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cocperation. As such, it should not be considered a United Nations official financial document.

b/ Pledges not included (amounting to US$ 1,518,519).

c/ Contributions paid directly to UNOPS not included (amounting to US$ 1,109,545)

Annex IV

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights: yearly contributions as of 17 November 1998